[English]

Power Generation Capacity

1467. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total power generation capacity in Megawatts and the quantum of additional power in Megawatts needed presently in the country, State-wise;

(b) the per capita annual availability of power;

(c) the details of the power generation capacity and the cost of production per unit, State-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government are considering to make the power supply rate of all the states uniform in future; and

(e) if so, by when if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rural Development Programmes by Cooperative Societies

1468. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prompted the cooperative societies to undertake programmes under various schemes of the rural developments;

(b) if so, the number of such cooperatives developed so far;

(c) whether the Government have made available the seed money to these co-operatives to equip themselves to undertake these developmental programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, under group loaning schemes under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), a maximum limit of 25% of the total allocation of funds in each District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) is permitted to be utilised as subsidy with no ceiling on the quantum of subsidy. The number of persons in a group may vary from 5 to 15. The groups selected may form a society under the Registration of Societies Act or a Co-operative Society or a Registered Company or a Partnership. No seed money is provided to Co-operative Societies under IRDP.

Commemorative Stamp

1469. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to issue a commemorative stamp on Great Novelist Tarashankar Bandopadhyay for his achievements in the field of literature on his Birth Centenary;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Posts has decided to issue a commemorative postage stamp in 1998 on the Bengalee Jnanpith Award Winners including late Sri Tarashankar Bandopadhyay. The stamp will be issued on a stuitable date during the birth centenary year of late Sri Tarashankar Bandopadhyay.

Scientific Research Institutions

1470. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of scientific research institutions functioning in the country at present under the Ministry of Science and Technology alongwith their locations;

(b) the annual budget earmarked for each research institute during 1995, 1996 and 1997;

(c) whether many of these institutes have not utilized their budget allocations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof together with reasons for such non-utilizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indian Boundaries Threatened by Internet

1471. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Indian boundaries threatened by Internet" appearing in the "Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated May 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the concerned Ministries and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Computerised Post Offices

1472. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to computerise some post offices in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current year it is proposed to install 900 Computer Based Counter Machine in 460 Post Offices in the Country.

State-wise detail of the 900 machines is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise List of Computer Based Counter Machines

Name of State	Number of Post Offices	Number of Computer based Counter Machines
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	28	65
2. Assam	16	50
3. Bihar	13	30
4. Delhi	28	55
5. Gujarat	27	55
6. Haryana	07	20
7. Himachal Pradesh	16	30
8. Jammu & Kashmir	05	10
9. Karnataka	52	60
10. Kerala	46	50
11. Madhya Pradesh	45	80
12. Maharashtra	41	75
13. N.E.	20	40
14. Orissa	26	50
15. Punjab	18	40
16. Rajasthan	16	45
17. Tamil Nadu	19	50
18. Uttar Pradesh	23	50
19. West Bengal	13	45
	460	900

Introduction of Trains

1473. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any new train on Madras-Mangalore route; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Communication Facility at Cheaper Rates

1474. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps being taken by the Government for providing communication facility at cheaper rates for sending information regarding natural calamity, danger to life and property and other important information and for emergency conversation for remote places of rural and hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) With effect from 1.1.96, the following tariff was introduced for rural subscribers for all types of conversation :

(i) Bi-monthly rentals reduced by Rs. 50/- for the exchange systems of 100 lines and above but below 1,000 lines.

(ii) 100 additional free calls allowed per bi-monthly billing period.

(iii) 20 paise per call reduced in call charges for 200 calls in excess of 250 free calls.

(iv) Registration fee reduced from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 1000 in respect of exchange systems below 10,000 lines.